

CRAWFORD - SB 115

My name is Nicole Crawford. My husband Brian and I live in Rocky Hill with our two children. Unfortunately, we live across the street from the proposed prison/hospital at 60 West Street. The privately-run, privately-owned prison/hospital will house criminals and mentally ill with a wide array of criminal offenses to include violent felonies and sexual offenses. The private “guards” will be unarmed and staff will not be experienced in dealing with inmates/mentally ill. It will be located within 50 feet of where children live and play. The owners of this facility, iCare/Secure Care (iCare), plan to utilize a nursing home that has been vacant for 2 years. iCare did not apply to Rocky Hill Planning and Zoning for a zoning variance to open/run a prison/hospital that would house inmates and mentally ill with a variety of criminal offenses. The State has alleged that these inmates/mentally ill will be at “end of life” but they have not defined what “end of life” is. In placing inmates/mentally ill in this private prison, the State can bill Medicare/Medicaid for their care. The State has said this will save taxpayers \$5.5 million dollars.

The mission statement of Proposed Bill 115 is to prevent the establishment of residential nursing facilities serving inmates and mental health patients without a site approval process requiring local input.

I would like to tell you what this proposed facility has done. This facility has brought fear, anxiety and anger to my family and fellow residents.

We are fearful of the inmates going into this facility because there is little to no security guarding inmates and mentally ill residents. There will be unarmed security guards and no fence surrounding the property. This poses a safety risk in the event of an escape.

We are anxious about the visitors to this prison/hospital. Visitors will not be screened or searched for drugs or weapons. What is to stop them from bringing contraband in?

We are angry that the State and iCare have circumvented Rocky Hill Planning and Zoning and prevented Rocky Hill resident from having a voice about a hazardous prison/hospital in our town. They have put our children and families at risk for the sake of money.

There is no amount of money that can take the place of a loved one.